

NASA Business Incubator Program - Summary

- Background
 - Congressional Objectives:
 - Facilitate commercial application of NASA technology by U.S. start-up or small existing high-technology firms.
 - Foster partnerships between U.S. educational institutions and U.S. small high-technology businesses.
 - Establish a nationwide, competitive program offering opportunity to all appropriate U.S. persons or entities.
 - Encourage local community public and private business participation.
 - Funding:
 - \$5M total funding over FY's '98 and '99, of which:
 - Approximately \$400K/yr designated for each of three new NASA business incubators for FY '98 and FY '99.
 - Approximately \$200K/yr designated for each of six existing NASA incubators for FY '98 and FY '99.
 - Special Program Requirements:
 - All NASA funding under this program should be matched dollar for dollar by cash and/or in-kind contributions from non-federal sources.
 - The three new business incubators to be established under this program should:
 - Be physically located within an approximate 30 mile radius of their supporting NASA field center.
 - Be not-for-profit at least until the end of the USG fiscal year corresponding to the NASA funding.
 - Demonstrate a strong likelihood of independence from all federal funding after a two to three year period starting at receipt of NASA funding.
 - Every NASA field center sponsors one, and only one, business incubator.

- Program Strategy

Closely link each NASA field center with a business incubator providing critical business development services to small, high technology based client firms interested in commercially applying the technology of the corresponding NASA field center.

- Program Implementation

- NASA HQ Role:

Establish common policy, guidance, and corresponding general evaluation criteria.

Adjust funding allocations based on demonstrated ability to prudently utilize the funding and demonstrated firm, non-federal matching of the NASA funding.

- NASA Field Center's Role:

- Issue Cooperative Agreement Notices for new NASA-sponsored business incubators and requests for proposals regarding existing NASA-sponsored incubators.

- Establish field center-specific evaluation criteria for both new and existing business incubators.

- Evaluate proposals, make selections, announce selections, and manage funding.

- Proposer Participation: Any U.S. state or local government agency, U.S. university, or other U.S. private for-profit or non-profit entity, or teaming of any combination thereof; participation by foreign entities is not permitted.

- Proposal Evaluation:

- Regarding new business incubators: Specifics provided in Cooperative Agreement Notices.

- Regarding existing business incubators: Specifics provided in field center requests for proposals.

- Contractual Vehicle - Cooperative Agreement between business incubator and NASA field center.

- Tentative Schedule
 - March 30, 1998: Release Commerce Business Dailey (CBD) notice announcing NASA Business Incubator Program.
 - April 13, 1998:
 - GSFC, LaRC, and DFRC/JPL issue separate Cooperative Agreement Notices (CAN's) inviting proposals to establish three new business incubators, one each incubator associated with GSFC, LaRC, and DFRC/JPL, respectively.
 - All other NASA field centers issue requests for proposals from their corresponding existing NASA-sponsored business incubators regarding use of additional funding and non-federal matching of that funding.
 - May 15, 1998: Proposals due from existing NASA business incubators to corresponding NASA field centers.
 - May 29, 1998: Proposals due to GSFC, LaRC, and DFRC/JPL regarding establishment of a new business incubator associated with each of these NASA field centers.
 - June 1, 1998: Announcement of awards by NASA field centers regarding additional funding to existing NASA-sponsored business incubators.
 - July 1, 1998: Announcement of awards by GSFC, LaRC, and DFRC/JPL regarding establishment of three new NASA-sponsored business incubators.
- Questions
 - Regarding CBD notice and other questions of a general program nature: Contact Mr. Michael Battaglia, NASA HQ, Fax: 202-358-3878; e-mail address: mbattagl@hq.nasa.gov.
 - Regarding business incubators associated with specific NASA field centers: Contact particular NASA field center official designated in the corresponding CAN or request for proposal.
 - All questions submitted to NASA HQ and answers will be accessible via the Internet/World Wide Web (<http://www.nctn.hq.nasa.gov/incubate/>) without attribution to the persons or entities submitting the questions.